



## September 2015

It is a privilege to welcome you back for the 2015-2016 school year! I hope you are ready for an exciting year. Your PARC board has come up with three great events for you during this school year to grow professionally and at the same time connect with your peers in a professional yet relaxed atmosphere.



First is the IRC conference in Peoria on October 1st-3rd. Last year our members who attended our events had their names put in a drawing for a paid registration to the IRC conference "Passports to Possibilities". The winner of that drawing is **Megan Kunesh!** Megan, be sure to say "Hi" if you run into me at the conference. If that sounds like something you'd like to win then come on out to our events and get your name put in the drawing for next year's 2016 IRC conference. You will find more information on membership benefits in this newsletter.

We are kicking off this year on **October 15th** with Paul Solarz, educator and author of "Learn like a Pirate" He will be talking about creating a student lead classroom. Registration is at 4:45 pm, dinner and a meeting is at 5:00 pm, and the presentation will start at 6:00 pm. This event is located in Marquardt District 15 at 1860 N. Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights. Admission for this event is \$35 for non-members, \$15 for members, and \$10 for students.

On **January 28, 2016** we will host Book Gossip with Kathleen March at Emmett's Ale House located at 5200 Main St, Downers Grove, Illinois. Admission will be \$35 for non-members, \$20 for members, and \$15 for students. Registration at 5:45 pm, dinner and a meeting at 6:00 pm, and the presentation starting at 7:00 pm.

PARC and FVRC will co-host our final event on **April 14, 2016**. Pam Allyn will speak on "A New Story for a New Era of Readers: 10 Best Practices for Readers & Writers". Registration and dinner will begin at 4:45 pm and the presentation begin at 5:30 pm. This event will be located in Marquardt District 15 at 1860 N. Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights. Admission will be \$40 for non-members, \$25 for members, and \$15 for students.

For web PD sign up for “Wired Wednesday” through the IRC website. This is PD in the comfort of your own home. What an excellent way to enhance your professional development. Culturally Responsive Instruction is the focus for this year.

I wish all of you a tremendous school year. Remember that all of you make PARC the great organization that it is. So come on out and join in the fun. Let this year be the year that you make the commitment to attend all the events and bring along a new member.

Looking forward to a successful year!

Sheila Tucker  
PARC President



## **PARC Board Members**

*President: Sheila Tucker [sheila\\_tucker@ipsd.org](mailto:sheila_tucker@ipsd.org)*  
*President Elect: Sherry Sejnost [sej7@comcast.net](mailto:sej7@comcast.net)*  
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*Past President: Mary Klepper [mary.klepper79@gmail.com](mailto:mary.klepper79@gmail.com)*

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## **PARC Building Representatives**

Please consider adding your name to this list. It's easy just spread the word around school to join PARC and attend our professional development opportunities.



Joyce Jeewek—Benedictine University ([jjeewek@ben.edu](mailto:jjeewek@ben.edu))  
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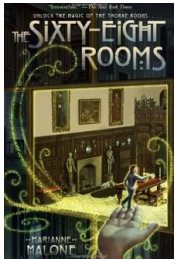



**Illinois Reads! Do You?**

Looking for a great read? Something different? The Illinois Reads Selections are a great place to start! Why?

- \*Illinois Authors
- \*Selected Works

\*Up-close-and-personal interaction w/authors can be a reality for your students!  
 Check it out for yourself! <http://www.illinoisreads.org/>

	<p><b><u>33 Minutes</u> by Todd Hasak-Lowy</b></p> <p>Likely a good read for students in grades 4-7.          An accessible read for students at varied reading levels.          The story takes place over a time span of thirty-three minutes.          Sam and Morgan’s friendship has changed. Sam’s trying to figure out what went wrong. Readers may be disappointed in the ending, but I found it to be very real, and a great talking point for my sixth grade students.</p>
	<p><b><u>The Sixty-Eight Rooms</u> by Marianne Malone</b></p> <p>What a great way to partner with your colleagues in Fine Arts! The main character takes a class field trip to the Art Institute, and falls in love with the Thorne Rooms.</p>
	<p><b><u>The Ugly One</u> by Leanne Stratland Ellis</b></p> <p>Inspired by her personal travels to Peru, Mrs. Ellis shares a story of a girl who’s been called The Ugly One all her life. As the story unfolds, her interactions with a stranger lead her to consider she’s not ugly at all.</p>

September is International Literacy Month! The International Literacy Association (ILA) is urging all of us to focus on worldwide literacy. Want to know more? Visit ILA for more info.

The ILA and the IRC are encouraging communities to create Little Free Libraries, and stock the libraries with Illinois Reads books. For more information on the Little Free Library, visit their link. <http://littlefreelibrary.org/>

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## Common Core Websites and Blogs

Submitted by Kelly Neylon  
and Melissa Love

As we all know, writing has a more prominent place in the new Illinois State Learning Standards. One blog/website that can help you and your students reach these standards is Two Writing Teachers <https://twowritingteachers.wordpress.com/>.

What I LOVE about this blog is the real life stories and suggestions! These folks work with kids on a daily basis and they share what has worked for them! Many of the bloggers have worked on the Lucy Caulkins Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing, K-8.

Mission: Good teaching is good teaching. Too often we get caught up in what's happening in our own classroom walls or in the faculty lounge of our own school building. This blog is a place that erases all of those barriers and focuses simply on teaching kids to write and catching minds in the midst. It's happening in cities, suburbs and small towns all over the globe.

TWO WRITING TEACHERS is a place:

For teachers to be fueled with a passion for teaching, writing, and living.

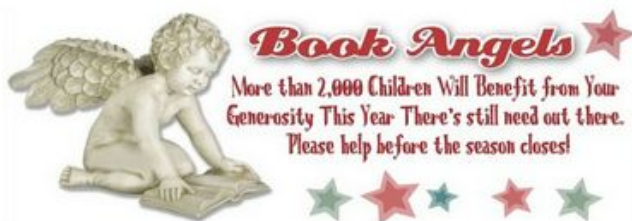
For teachers to see the latest in research and ways to apply it in their classrooms.

For us to "practice what we preach" by sharing our own writing.

To bring writing teachers together to share ideas and stretch each other's thinking.

To reflect on our teaching - celebrating when it goes well and working it out when it doesn't.

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**Prairie Area Reading Council  
is making a donation to the  
Book Angels to support  
literacy and our children.**

<http://www.andersonsbookshop.com/book-angels>

## Professional Reading Tip

Submitted by: Morgan Heckscher Aiello

### STOP! Notice and Note



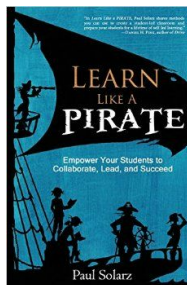
Notice and Note is a phenomenal teaching resource written by Kylene Beers and Robert Probst. It is a guide for teachers and students in what to look for when reading a book. Beers and Probst researched this book by asking thousands of teachers what novels they assign. Then they took the top twenty-five books in grades four through ten and analyzed what these books had in common. Those commonalities became the signposts.

The signposts are basically a reading routine that provides students with “signs” to watch for in books. They ask students to pay close attention to all the clues that the author whispers to the reader along the way. The signs contribute to overall deeper understanding of a text. Along with the signs, the authors have included a collection of lessons and texts to use as teaching tools.

The first signpost is **contrasts and contradictions**, which is when there is a sharp contrast between what the reader expects and what happens. Once students begin to recognize these contrasts, they can ask why the character would act or feel this way. This leads to a deeper understanding of character development, conflict, and theme among other literary elements. By helping readers to really break down a text and analyze the clues authors leave, we are intentionally teaching them to be close readers. The other signposts include **again and again**, which is a huge clue to symbolism and theme, **memory moments**, which help readers understand character development and plot, **aha moment**, which often clarifies internal conflict, **tough questions**, which leads to theme and character development, and **words of the wiser**, which again helps with theme.

Once my fifth graders were introduced to the signposts, they started noticing them everywhere! As I read aloud Wonder, we had the sticky notes ready. When kids noticed a signpost they were able to share it with the class and add it to our giant poster tracking the signposts. Each sticky note represented a discussion that led to a deeper understanding of the book, character development, theme, and plot. It was amazing to see in action! I highly suggest that you not only read this book, but also join our Notice and Note Facebook group. Kylene Beers often comments and works with us to develop lessons and ideas. This is a great community of teachers. Also, be on the lookout, because the non-fiction version of this book comes out in October and it’s sure to change your teaching, as well as your personal reading.

# Prairie Area Reading Council



*PARC is proud to host – Paul Solarz*

*“Learn Like A Pirate” Author*

Paul teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade in at Westgate Elementary School in Arlington Heights, Illinois and spends a great deal of time talking with fellow educators about developments in the best teaching methods. He has recently been given the Illinois Computer Educator of the Year Award. Driven by the belief that today's education system is outdated and inefficient, he spends a great deal of time discussing best practices and new approaches with a network of fellow educators. He also travelled to Finland and China to compare their education systems with those in the US. He documents his reflections on his blog and shares his insights via social media and through workshops.

***When: Thursday, October 15, 2015***

***Where: Marquardt District 15 Administrative Office***

***1860 N. Glen Ellyn Road, Glendale Heights, IL***

***Time: 4:45-7:00 pm***

***Register by October 9, 2015***

***Contact Hours given - Cost includes dinner***

***Select one: \_\_\_\$15.00 Members \_\_\_\$35.00 Non-Members \_\_\_\_\$10.00 Students (non-service pre-service)***

**Discount Codes: If you are a member type in Member to receive a \$20.00 discount. Pre-service teachers type in Preservice for a \$25.00 discount.**

Register online at: <https://goo.gl/gow0No>

